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Country programme document

Albania

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Albania is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,345,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $12,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

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Programme rationale

1. Albania, an upper-middle-income country since 2009 and candidate for European Union (EU) membership since 2014, has achieved considerable improvements in the situation of its child population of approximately 700,000, equivalent to 24 per cent of the entire population.[1]

2. Infant mortality and under-five mortality rates have steadily declined, reaching 13 and 14 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, in 2015 (compared to over 30 deaths per 1,000 live births in the early 2000s), and immunization coverage is nearly universal. Nevertheless, infant and child mortality rates are still among the highest[2] in the subregion; in the underserved areas of mountainous Albania, these rates are twice the national average.[3] Likewise, the total burden of disease[4] for children aged 1-4 has declined significantly but remains the highest in the South-eastern Europe region. Among Roma children,[5] 70 per cent do not get regular medical check-ups.[6] Government spending on health care is about 2.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), among the lowest in South-eastern Europe.[7]

3. By 2014, net enrolment rates in pre-primary[8] (ages 3-5) and primary (ages 6-10) education had reached 81 and 96 per cent, respectively, compared to 67 and 91 per cent, in 2010.[9] However, about half of young Roma children still do not have access to pre-primary education,[10] while up to 40 per cent of Roma aged 6-14 have never attended school.[11] The out-of-school children category also includes many children with disabilities (exact numbers remain unknown). In 2014, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics reported that about 15,000 children of primary and lower-secondary school age do not attend school. Public spending for education is 3.5 per cent of GDP,[12] a level significantly lower than the average of 6.3 per cent for countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

4. Despite the country's impressive economic progress of the past decade, children in Albania remain disproportionately affected by poverty. Between 2002 and 2012, the incidence of national poverty decreased from 25.4 to 14.3 per cent,[13] whereas child poverty stood at 20.1 per cent.[14] UNICEF-supported analysis (in

[1] Albania Institute for Statistics (INSTAT) data, 2015.
[2] United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, *Level and Trends in Child Mortality*, 2015.
[3] Ibid.
[4] As measured by the disability-adjusted life years (DALY) methodology.
[5] According to INSTAT, in 2011 Roma children accounted for 0.3 per cent of Albania's child population.
[6] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Needs Assessment Study on Roma and Egyptian Communities in Albania*, 2012.
[7] World Bank, *Albania: World Bank Group Partnership Program Snapshot*, 2015.
[8] It should be noted that 5-year-old children represent the bulk of the cohort enrolled in pre-primary education; much lower rates exist for children aged 3 and 4.
[9] UNESCO Institute for Statistics data, 2016.
[10] UNICEF, *Access of Roma children to education and health services in Albania*, 2014.
[11] UNDP, *Needs Assessment Study on Roma and Egyptian Communities in Albania*, 2012.
[12] UNESCO Institute for Statistics data, 2016.
[13] World Bank, *Living Conditions Measurement Survey*, 2012.
[14] INSTAT calculations.

2013[15] and 2015) highlighted multiple dimensions of child deprivation rooted in poverty. At 1.6 per cent of GDP, the level of investment in social protection is among the lowest in the region, and primarily contributes to cash assistance, with minimal investment in social support and care services. Owing to the limited coverage of households with children, ineffective targeting and low monetary value of cash transfers per family, the national Economic Aid scheme has faced challenges to adequately protect children from poverty and deprivation.[16] The social protection institutional set-up and mechanisms require a more systemic approach to responding to the multidimensional nature of poverty, deprivation and the underlying vulnerability that children and families experience.

5. National surveys reveal a widespread phenomenon of domestic violence, reported by 58 per cent of children (aged 10-14) and 59 per cent of women.[17] Exposure to cyber-violence and/or sexual abuse online is also high.[18] In 2015, Albanian police registered 1,167 crimes against children (aged 0-18), representing 5 per cent of the total number of crimes against persons. Child labour involves approximately 5 per cent of children, with most working children labouring under hazardous conditions or in the street.[19] Lacking a comprehensive integrated national system of child protection, the response will need to overcome bottlenecks related to inefficient, overlapping and fragmented interventions. Local action is predominantly dependent on services provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).[20] High expectations are associated with the newly defined, more active role of municipalities in social services provision — though the establishment of appropriate governance mechanisms at national and local levels is still pending.

6. UNICEF-supported research showed that more than 37 per cent of the 989 children residing under institutional care in 2014 were below age 3 (with no gender bias identified), and 90 per cent were from biological families that did not have the means to provide minimum necessary care.[21] Despite initial promising results in modelling foster/kinship care for abandoned children, the infrastructure of institutional care remains the mainstay of the childcare system.

7. The Albanian justice system still displays a punitive approach to juveniles in conflict with the law. The number of children (almost exclusively boys) in pre-trial detention increased from 176 in 2011 to 338 in 2014, while the average length of detention grew from 133 to 140 days.[22] Of 11 countries in the region included in the UNICEF evaluation of the impact of juvenile justice reforms in 2014, Albania had the largest average duration of pre-trial detention and showed an increase in the numbers of children in pre- and post-trial detention between 2006 and 2012.[23] Diversion and restorative justice remain insufficiently regulated by legislation. Social reintegration is still fragmented, relying primarily on donor-funded NGOs.

[15] Child Rights Observatory, *Child Poverty in Albania*, 2013.
[16] UNICEF, *Reforming economic aid: from survival to investment in poverty reduction*, 2011.
[17] INSTAT, *National population-based surveys on domestic violence in Albania*, 2009 and 2013.
[18] World Vision, *Study on child online safety in Albania*, 2015.
[19] International Labour Organization (ILO), *Working children in the Republic of Albania*, 2013; UNICEF, *National study on children in street situations*, 2014.
[20] UNICEF, *Mapping and analysis of Albania's Child Protection system*, 2015.
[21] UNICEF, *Survey of children resident in public and non-public institutions in Albania*, 2014.
[22] Official statistics of the Ministry of Justice.
[23] UNICEF CEE/CIS, *Multi-country evaluation of the impact of the juvenile justice system reforms on children in conflict with the law*, 2015.

There are insufficient guarantees for the protection of child victims and witnesses of crime.

8. Availability, regularity, disaggregation and analysis of data on the situation of children have been serious bottlenecks, hampering evidence-based planning and monitoring of national programmes and international development assistance. Methodological discrepancies exist between the national and international practices in data collection and interpretation. Nationwide surveys capture important impact-level results but have been too infrequent and donor-driven, while administrative data collection systems are yet to mature. In most sectors, computer-based Management Information Systems are under development, and information on specific population groups and/or types of vulnerabilities is yet to be captured. National reporting on the situation of children could be stronger in highlighting inequities, and response actions could be sharper, if more disaggregated data were available.

9. For the country to achieve equitable growth and social cohesion, all children should be able to share in the benefits of the country's social and economic progress of the past decades. However, equity gaps still persist. Children in situations of particular vulnerability and marginalization — those living in poor households, of Roma or Egyptian ethnicity, out of school, with disability, in detention, from migrant and refugee families, in residential care — remain chronically deprived of developmental opportunities in health, education, civic participation and other areas. This deprivation hampers the realization of their rights and narrows their prospects to thrive.

10. Albania is prone to natural disasters, such as floods in low-lying coastal areas, heavy snowfalls isolating mountainous populations, and seismic activity. The potential impact on children and families ranges from damage to households and assets to human casualties. Meanwhile, child-focused emergency preparedness and response capacities are insufficient, particularly in the absence of a strong tradition of disaster risk reduction (DRR). The geographical location of Albania also makes the country a possible route for the refugee and migrant flows across Europe.

11. One of the most important lessons learned in addressing barriers and bottlenecks that are still hindering results for children is that well-defined enforcement mechanisms are needed to accompany child rights legislative initiatives aligned with international norms and standards. In the areas of social protection, health, nutrition, education, juvenile justice and child protection, significant gaps prevent implementation of provisions of national legislation. Identified are the following gaps: weak or absent accountability mechanisms, performance standards, formalized job descriptions, and management and monitoring tools. In many instances, implementation plans lack the entire budgeting component. This critically important component includes evidence to cost children's services and formulate budgetary submissions in line with national Public Finance Management requirements. The need to strengthen national capacities in results-based management and budgeting was highlighted in the evaluation of the Delivering as One programme of cooperation between the Government of Albania and the United Nations, 2012-2016. Findings of multi-country evaluations (MCEs) commissioned by UNICEF in the Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States region in 2013-2015 informed the country office's programmatic thinking in relation to decentralization, governance capacity gaps, root causes of marginalization, cross-sectoral integration, quality and utilization of research, and change in social attitudes.

12. The value of cross-sectoral approaches is another lesson learned. During 2012-2016, UNICEF successfully supported the Government and civil society partners in establishing mechanisms of intersectoral action in several areas: tracing and reintegrating out-of-school children; following up on cases of unregistered births; reaching out to Roma children with health care and early education services; and supporting social rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law. The positive impact of intersectoral subnational collaboration in food safety and child feeding standards was documented in the evaluation of a UNICEF-led Programme on Reducing Child Malnutrition in Albania, implemented jointly with the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations from 2010 to 2013.

Programme priorities and partnerships

13. The overarching goal is to achieve, by 2021, the progressive realization of rights of all children in Albania, accompanied by the reduction of equity gaps, to be based on effective child-focused policies, systematically enforced accountabilities with adequate public resources, and strengthened respect for and protection of children's rights.

14. The country programme results will contribute to progress made by Albania to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular: 1 (No poverty), 3 (Good health and well-being), 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality), 6 (Clean water and sanitation), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), 13 (Climate action), 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The programme is fully aligned with national priorities of EU integration, including democracy and rule of law, independent and accountable judicial institutions, consolidated good governance, social cohesion based on a modern educational system, universal and quality health care coverage, expanded employment opportunities, a stronger social protection system, gender equality and social inclusion.[24]

15. Refinement of the country programme results and targets took place during extensive consultations and workshops with national government and civil society partners in 2015-2016. The country programme will contribute to the 2017-2021 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) result areas of Governance and Rule of Law (Outcome I), Social Cohesion (Outcome II) and Environment and Climate Change (Outcome IV).

16. The Government and UNICEF, along with their partners, have been guided by three main considerations in identifying the two priorities for the programme of cooperation, 2017-2021: Strengthened governance for equity and social inclusion, and Protection and access to justice for children. First, in each of the health, education, social protection and justice sectors, there is already a solid base of newly introduced equity-focused standards of care and services for children. These standards, once applied nationwide, will help to guarantee sustainability, laying the foundations for a stronger system of national governance, particularly at the local level. Prioritizing governance for children (including, planning and management competencies to deliver quality services for children), as opposed to stand-alone projects, reflects the UNICEF programmatic strategic shift. Second, the

[24] Government of Albania, *National Strategy for Development and Integration*, 2015-2020.

administrative decentralization reform undertaken by Albania provides the opportunity for implanting quality, equity-focused services for children at the local level in the newly established 61 municipalities, subject to their strengthened governance capacity. Third, there is a need to prioritize efforts to build a system of child protection and justice. These efforts will build on existing elements while acknowledging the overall absence of a system-based approach and an over-reliance on projects run by NGOs, which almost fully depend on donor funding.

17. The programme components of Strengthened governance for equity and social inclusion, Protection and access to justice for children, and Programme effectiveness will address the priorities of establishing strong policy frameworks and implementation mechanisms in health, education, social protection and justice sectors, allowing duty-bearers to effectively reach and assist children and families in situations of particular vulnerability and/or exclusion. Clear assignment of accountabilities, regular supply of strong evidence, attention to citizens' demanding better services and protection of rights will provide the foundational blocks for implementation of public policies and programmes. Alongside the sector-tied targets, intersectoral child protection mechanisms will be strengthened, to provide the fabric of services, referral points and collaborative networks necessary to respond to cases of child violence, abuse, neglect or injustice.

Strengthened governance for equity and social inclusion

18. This programme component will address key legislative, institutional, data- or resource-related bottlenecks preventing equitable implementation of child rights in health, education and social protection. The long-term vision of success is that (a) all boys and girls in Albania, especially those in situations of marginalization (those affected by poverty, with disabilities, from Roma and Egyptian minorities, living in underserved regions and/or on the move) equitably access quality social services that fully meet international norms and standards, and (b) that children and their families receive appropriate assistance to overcome multidimensional deprivations. Effective governance at national and especially subnational/local levels is a prerequisite for such services to be designed, planned, delivered and monitored.

19. This vision is fully in line with the priorities of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) for 2015-2020 related to the consolidation of good governance, effective investment in human capital, and social cohesion. It is also in harmony with specific targets included in the new national strategies of pre-university education and social protection, and strategies in health.

20. In the area of maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), the programme of cooperation will assist the Government in strengthening the health system at national and regional levels. Key areas of UNICEF support will include policy and regulatory frameworks, costing, analysis and design of financing mechanisms that ensure universal health coverage, enhanced governance and management skills, and a strengthened Health Information System, aligned with international measurement standards for monitoring health and nutrition outcomes and underpinned by disaggregated data serving to prioritize the most vulnerable women and children. To expand the application of the new MNCH regulatory framework, in line with the adopted protocols and standards, national and regional health authorities will be supported to establish efficient and sustainable management through capacity development and improving technical skills, including for improved data collection

and analysis, budgeting and resource allocation, and enhanced performance monitoring of MNCH service providers. Home-visiting and other forms of outreach will enable health-care professionals to identify and prioritize children and families in difficult life circumstances. Health-care professionals will be accountable, according to the new standards, to interact with national child protection actors and mechanisms on spotted incidences of child neglect, maltreatment or abuse (including gender-based violence). Early identification of developmental delays and disabilities will be given due attention. Development and operationalization of an appropriate financing formula for comprehensive MNCH-care provision will be an important element to enhance health-seeking behaviours and boost the utilization of available services, especially by Roma and Egyptian communities, as well as families of children with disabilities.

21. UNICEF will continue providing support to the Ministry of Health in the procurement of vaccines for the national immunization programme and antiretroviral medicines. The UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action will be promoted to leverage national and local DRR plans and policies, given the country's susceptibility to natural disasters.

22. In the area of early learning and inclusive education, the country programme will continue to work with the Ministry of Education and Sports in identifying out-of-school children and integrating them into school. The national Education Management Information System will incorporate monitoring instruments based on intersectoral cooperation among the education, health, civil registry and social protection authorities at the local level. UNICEF will assist in reforming national assessment systems to measure learning outcomes, particularly for disadvantaged children. A regular supply of credible information will inform upgrades of the national education policies and practices, with particular focus on ethnicity- and/or gender-based inequities. To make the national education system fully inclusive in relation to identified vulnerable children (from Roma minorities, with disabilities, with learning difficulties), teaching methodologies and techniques and classroom practices and performance standards will be upgraded, in compliance with international and EU standards of inclusive education. A special 'per-student' financing formula will be developed in relation to children at risk of dropping out of school or excluded from the mainstream education system.

23. Newly endorsed Early Learning and Development Standards will form the foundation for policy decisions related to the early childhood education system — including revision of preschool curricula, pre- and in-service teacher training programmes and a special financing formula for a dedicated early education budget line. UNICEF will cooperate with the Ministry of Education and Sports in the universal introduction of a pre-primary schooling year (for children aged 5-6) by 2018, and in the systematic expansion of early childhood development services (for children aged 3-5). Parenting programmes will highlight the importance of nurturing and stimulating home environments for the development and learning of boys and girls alike, promote demand for early childhood development and social protection services, and encourage cooperation with local authorities and civil society in mobilizing resources.

24. Given that the social protection system, with UNICEF support, has been undergoing intense reform, especially related to non-residential care services, the programme will centre on developing and strengthening management and coordination mechanisms for the social protection system. Efforts will be based on

the new approach combining cash assistance with social care services, including social protection measures that facilitate children's access to health care, early learning and basic education. Fiscal space analyses, costed plans and investment cases for social protection for children will be developed to inform policymaking at central and local levels, emphasizing the latter. Tools to plan, budget, monitor and enforce social protection service delivery will be made available by UNICEF, and a cohort of professional social workers will be equipped in child- and gender-sensitive 'case management', based on the legislative framework. The national social protection Management Information System will be strengthened to regularly collect disaggregated data on children and families in particularly vulnerable situations. Solid knowledge will inform the analysis of the system's effectiveness for the mitigation of child poverty and will guide better targeting social protection based on both 'cash' and 'care'.

25. Partnerships with relevant line ministries, as well as their subordinate institutions and inspectorate bodies, regional departments for health, education and social protection, municipal administrations, civil society, and community-based organizations will be key instruments in achieving programme results. These efforts will build on the UNICEF comparative advantage of combined experience in policy design and service delivery, including through working with non-governmental actors who have been undertaking the critically important implementation phases of many initiatives agreed with the Government.

Protection and justice for children

26. This component will address key legislative, institutional, data- or resource-related bottlenecks preventing equitable implementation of child rights to protection and access to justice. The long-term vision of success is that all Albanian boys and girls, especially those in situations of particular vulnerability, are effectively protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

27. This vision is fully in line with national priorities of democracy, rule of law and social cohesion of the NSDI and harmonizes with the justice system reform strategy, social protection strategy and the vision of the country's future child protection system.

28. UNICEF assistance to the Government and the State Agency for Child Rights Protection in revising the architecture of the national child protection system, and aligning it to the reforms in the health, education, social protection and justice sectors, will strengthen prevention and response measures to abuse, violence (including gender-based violence), exploitation and neglect of children. Multisectoral collaboration and synergies will be ensured by new and existing child protection operational protocols used by various institutions.

29. At the same time, decentralized elements of the system will be sustained and expanded, optimizing the experience of community-based child protection units/workers and ensuring that newly formed municipalities are equipped to meet child protection responsibilities. UNICEF-supported reform of social protection services will be crucial in creating both normative space and resource allocation formulas for subcontracting child protection services to non-governmental operators, relying on the civil society's particular strengths and specializations in the identification, referral and counselling for cases involving violence and abuse against children.

30. To increase family resilience to, and ability to overcome, socioeconomic hardships often leading to institutionalization of children, social protection systems will be strengthened, including the capacity of social and child protection workers to identify families at risk of separation and refer them to the appropriate providers of support. These will include the national cash assistance programme, as well as specific care services the family may need. Parenting programmes, professional advice and guidance will assist families either at risk of separation or those offering kinship care for children separated from their biological parents.

31. To ensure protection and justice for all children, legislators and law enforcement authorities will be offered technical assistance in developing modern legislation and normative frameworks on child-friendly justice, in line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and on relevant international and EU standards. Justice for children norms and measures upholding the rights of children in conflict, as well as in contact, with the law will be operationalized through training programmes, methodological and reference materials to be developed for the Magistrates School, the Bar Association Academy, the Police Academy and the Inspectorate of Justice.

32. The Juvenile Justice Code will prioritize alternative measures to detention and collaboration between the Ministry of Justice and State Probation Services. Systems of social and child protection will be enhanced, providing social rehabilitation and reintegration of young law offenders. A holistic tracking of cases within and among sectors will be established through a computerized database of children in conflict with the law and victims/witnesses, thus enabling a wide spectrum of professionals to contribute effectively to each case — until a solution in the best interests of the child is found. The practice of strategic litigation for child rights will be promoted, using real-case evidence for the enhancement of the national normative base. This will help to inspire children and families to demand justice through legal instruments and channels.

33. Advocacy and partnerships with the parliamentary commissions, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, State Probation Services, State Agency for Child Rights Protection and civil society organizations (CSOs) will prepare the ground for necessary legal and policy changes needed to create a strong national system of protection and justice for children. Independent oversight of executive powers will be ensured by the Friends of Children group (caucus) of parliamentarians, the People's Advocate and the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.

34. Horizontal cooperation and partnerships beyond borders will be facilitated by UNICEF, with successful best practices anchored in the experiences of international and bilateral development cooperation actors, including the EU, as well as the World Bank, the Governments of Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States — given their prominent roles in supporting and financing reforms in various sectors. The Delivering as One experience of the previous programme cycle will ensure the necessary cohesion and complementarity with programmes of the United Nations system in Albania.

Programme effectiveness

35. To meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children, financial and human resources will be allocated for programme coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and communication. UNICEF will provide expert

advice, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes, in compliance with the results-based management planning and budgeting standards. The capacity of CSO partners to operate in line with the requirements of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) will be strengthened. Programming for DRR, emergency preparedness and mitigation of the effects of climate change will be given due attention.

36. Knowledge generation and management will be an essential component to ensure the quality of programme design, measurability of results and the convening power of UNICEF evidence-based advocacy. The statistics and child rights monitoring mechanisms of Albania will be strengthened to provide decision makers, service providers, children, families and society at large with reliable information to guide the country's action for children.

37. Robust and up-to-date evidence will drive Communication for Social Development, tailored to different audiences of duty-bearers and rights-holders. UNICEF global and regional experience will be capitalized upon and adjusted to the Albanian context, and will be backed up by the appropriate technical expertise.

38. A mix of UNICEF core roles will be applied to achieve programme results, with a particular emphasis on high-level advocacy (an independent voice for children), informed by solid evidence and supported by global, regional and in-country technical advice. Regional results networks will provide relevant examples of successful policy models, to inspire Albanian stakeholders to test similar innovations.

Summary budget table

	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
Programme component	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Strengthened governance for equity and social inclusion	1 200	5 000	6 200
Protection and justice for children	1 600	5 000	6 600
Programme effectiveness	1 545	2 000	3 545
Total	**4 345**	**12 000**	**16 345**

Programme and risk management

39. The programme of cooperation with the Government of Albania will be implemented in line with the UNDAF and its established Delivering as One planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. At the same time, it will ensure compliance with UNICEF programme and operational policies and procedures, including HACT as one of the United Nations system's mechanisms for simplifying and reducing transaction costs.

40. The main risks in relation to the expected programme outcomes include low funds absorption caused by planning and implementation capacity constraints at central and local levels of government; possible turnover of key government staff around the periods of elections; and insufficient clarity, commitment and technical support for developing governance capacities in the newly formed municipalities. At

the same time, international development assistance may significantly decline, diverted to other regional or global priorities. To mitigate such risks, UNICEF will support leveraging resources for children, as well as related funding systems, mechanisms and operational standards, anchored to the agreed EU integration and national development priorities.

41. UNICEF and its partners will invest in decentralization reform and the transmission of responsibility for social services to local authorities.

42. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

Monitoring and evaluation

43. Progress towards planned results will be monitored using the indicators contained in the results and resources framework (see the annex), based on the UNDAF 2017-2021, the UNICEF Strategic Plan and programme management indicators.

44. UNICEF programme components have been developed using the approach of the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES), sharpening the focus on the most critical bottlenecks and barriers that are preventing children from realizing their rights, while enabling clear elaboration of results chains with appropriate monitoring indicators at all levels. Statistical and administrative data will be complemented by qualitative analyses, to offer a comprehensive picture of the country's progress and gaps in the implementation of the child rights and equity agenda.

45. In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF will contribute to developing the capacity of the National Institute of Statistics to ensure the country produces, analyses and disseminates high-quality data on children and adolescents, disaggregated by gender, age, ethnic group and disability status. All programme components include an element of strengthening national and local monitoring and reporting capacities in the context of the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

46. UNICEF will also contribute to expanding the availability of crucial child-outcome indicators through support for the conducting of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys. Research, studies and evaluations will be conducted to ascertain the effectiveness of programme interventions and enhance knowledge-generation practice as a corporate commitment. An overall country programme evaluation will assess the achievements of the previous country programme and inform the programme for 2017-2021.

47. To ensure that programme strategies remain relevant in an evolving context, programme reviews (midyear and annual, or as required) will be jointly organized with government and civil society stakeholders.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Albania — UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 37, 40 **National priorities:** Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17 2015-2020 National Strategy for Development and Integration 2014-2020 Strategy for Pre-University Education 2016-2020 Strategy for Social Protection 2016-2020 National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2015-2019 National Policy Paper for Social Inclusion
UNDAF outcomes involving UNICEF: *Outcome 1: Governance and Rule of Law* • Rate of children in detention (per 100,000 population aged 14-1. Proportion of child-related valid complaints for which a remedial action was taken by the People's Advocate, annually *Outcome 2: Social cohesion: health, education, social protection, child protection and gender-based violence* • Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births • Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 deliveries • Private household out-of-pocket expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure • Net school enrolment rates • Schoolchildren's learning outcomes • Percentage of low-income families and children with disabilities with access to adequate cash benefits • Rate of children in residential care (per 100,000 child population) • Number of national mechanisms collecting evidence on and addressing violence against children *Outcome 4: Environment and Climate Change* • Extent to which comprehensive measures are being implemented to achieve low-emission and/or climate-resilient development objectives
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: 1, 4, 5, 6, 7

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
By 2021, children in situations of particular vulnerability enjoy equitable access to quality health, education and social protection services supported by effective governance mechanisms.	Percentage of regions with equity-focused Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) quality improvement plans Baseline 2016: 8% Target: 100%	Ministry of Health (MoH) records	1.1. By 2021, health care policymakers and service providers are equipped with knowledge, guidance, tools and mechanisms to effectively scale up and implement the new MNCH normative framework, focused on the most marginalized 1.2. By 2021, education sector policymakers and practitioners at central and local levels are equipped with knowledge, guidance, tools and mechanisms to effectively implement and scale up the reformed, Early Learning and Development Standards-based and equity-sensitive, early learning education framework 1.3. By 2021, social protection policymakers and practitioners are equipped with knowledge, guidance, tools and mechanisms to effectively implement the reformed social protection policy (combining cash assistance with decentralized care services)	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MoSWY), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), MoH, Ministry of Finance (MoF), Minister of Local Governance, civil society organizations (CSOs), municipalities, United Nations agencies	1 200	5 000	6 200
	Private households' out-of-pocket payment on health as % of total health expenditure Baseline 2014: 55% Target: 40%	World Bank measurements					
	Net school enrolment rates Baseline Pre-primary 2014 *Total: 81%* Girls: 80% Boys: 82% Roma: 55% Target Pre-primary *Total: 98%* Girls: 98% Boys: 98% Roma: 75%	MoES records; UNESCO Institute of Statistics calculations					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	<u>Baseline Primary 2013</u> ***Total: 96%*** **Girls: 95%** **Boys: 96%** **Roma: 61%** **<u>Target Primary</u>** ***Total: 100%*** **Girls: 100%** **Boys: 100%** **Roma: 80%**						
	Share of GDP allocated for education **<u>Baseline 2016</u>: 3.5%** **<u>Target</u>: 5.0%**	**MoF data**					
	Proportion of children covered by government cash transfer (pro-poor and disability allowance) programmes **<u>Baseline 2015:</u>** **Number of children: 161,278** **Percentage of total child population: 24%** **<u>Target</u>:** **Percentage of total child population: 40%**	**MoSWY and State Social Services (SSS) records**					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	Coordination mechanisms for social protection are established and functional countrywide Baseline 2016: not established Target: established and functional						
By 2021, children's rights to justice and protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect are effectively supported by a comprehensive system of multisectoral prevention and response mechanisms	Rate of children (age 0-17) in residential (public and non-public) care per 100,000 child population Baseline 2015: 84 Target: 42 Rate of children with disabilities (age 0-17) in public institutions per 100,000 child population Baseline 2015: 7 Target: 3	MoSWY and SSS records	2.1. By 2021, social and child protection practitioners have increased capacity to assist families in situations of particular vulnerability/at risk of separation to provide care for their children, preventing institutionalization 2.2. By 2021, child protection practitioners are empowered with legal and normative frameworks, operational standards and tools to effectively prevent and address situations of child abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation	Parliament of Albania, MoSWY, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), MoES, MoH, Prosecutor's Office, CSOs, municipalities, United Nations agencies	1 600	5 000	6 600

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
	Number of national mechanisms collecting evidence and addressing violence against children Baseline 2015: 4 (police, Child Protection Units (CPUs), schools, helpline) Target: at least 6 (police, CPUs, schools, helpline, health centres, online and web-based platform)	State Agency for Child Rights Protection annual reports	2.3. By 2021, justice sector policymakers, practitioners and independent human rights institutions have the capacity to fully align the Justice for Children normative framework to international standards and to effectively protect the rights of children in conflict and in contact with the law				
	Rate of children in detention (per 100,000 population aged 14-17) Baseline 2014: 179 Target: 105	MoJ records					
	Out of all child-related valid complaints, proportion of complaints for which a remedial action was taken by the People's Advocate, annually Baseline 2014: 65% Target 2021: 5 percentage points increase, annually	People's Advocate Office records					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets (by 2021)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
The Government of Albania — UNICEF programme of cooperation is effectively designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality standards in achieving results for children.	Programme of cooperation is: (a) effectively designed; (b) coordinated; (c) managed; and (d) supported Baseline: Yes Target: Yes	Programme of cooperation	1. Guidance, tools and resources to effectively and efficiently design and manage the programme of cooperation are available to UNICEF and its partners. 2. Guidance, tools and resources to effectively generate, analyse, and utilize statistical and qualitative information for Child Rights Monitoring system are available in the country. 3. Guidance, tools and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders are available to UNICEF and its partners. 4. Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied throughout the programme of cooperation.	All UNICEF partners in Albania	1 545	2 000	3 545
Total resources					**4 345**	**12 000**	**16 345**